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Cornish
for the
year ending
March 14, 1854

NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE LIBRARY

REPORT

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OF THE

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

OF THE

TOWN OF CORNISH,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 14, 1854.

WITH THE

Report of the Superintending School Committee.

WINDSOR:

PRINTED AT THE VERMONT CHRONICLE PRESS.

1854.

COPY OF WARNING.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Cornish, in the County of Sullivan in said State, qualified to vote in Town affairs :

You are hereby notified to meet at the Town-House in said Cornish, on Tuesday, the Fourteenth day of March next, at nine of the clock in the Forenoon, to act on the following subjects, viz :

- 1st. To choose a Moderator to preside in said meeting.
- 2d. To choose a Town Clerk.
- 3d. To choose a Representative to represent this town in the General Court of said State.
- 4th. To bring in your votes for Governor, Councillor, Senator, Railroad Commissioner, County Treasurer, Register of Deeds, and three Road Commissioners.
- 5th. To choose Selectmen and all other necessary Town Officers.
- 6th. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray town charges the ensuing year.
- 7th. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to make and repair Highways the ensuing year.
- 8th. To see what sum of money the town will raise to pay land damages and build the road, laid out by the Selectmen the past year, commencing near the house of Nathaniel Johnson and intersecting with the road leading from Wm. R. Kimball's to Jacob Chase's.
- 9th. To see what sum of money the town will raise to pay land damages and build a short piece of road laid out by the Selectmen the past year near the house of John Luey.
- 10th. To see what disposition the town will make of the new highway laid out by the Selectmen of Cornish on petition of William D. Spaulding and others.

11th. To see if the town will vote to disannex part of the Leonard Comings farm, beginning at the north-west corner of Libbeus Chase's mast lot (so called) ; thence running west twenty rods on a line parallel with the north line of said mast lot to a stake and stones ; thence north one hundred rods on a line parallel with the head of river lots to a stake and stones ; thence easterly on a line parallel with the north line of said mast lot twenty rods, to the head of the river lots ; thence southerly one hundred rods, to the place of beginning, from School District No. 1, and annex the same to School District No. 11.

12th. To see if the town will vote to disannex the farms of James and Jonathan E. Tasker from School District No. 11, and annex the same to School District No. 9.

13th. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise for the support of Schools the ensuing year in addition to the sum required by law.

Given under our hands and seal this twenty-fourth day of February, A. D. 1854.

HIRAM LITTLE,
EBENEZER COLE,
JOSHUA B. WYMAN, } *Selectmen of Cornish.*

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

They have assessed the inhabitants of the town of Cornish and lands of non-resident owners, the sum of \$3293 82

They have paid into the Treasury the following additional sums :

Circus License,	30 00
Literary Fund,	85 73
Cash received of the County for the support of County Paupers,	94 21
Railroad tax,	43 87
Interest on School Fund,	35 00
Interest on Literary Fund,	20 00
Making the whole amount,	—————\$3602 63
Deduct cash paid State and County Treasurers,	656 44
Leaves a balance of	<u>\$2946 19</u>

EXPENDITURES.

For the support of the Poor, including \$125 paid the town of Grantham in settlement of the Babcock case, so called,

	\$371 49
Alms-House expenses,	160 71
For the support of Schools,	833 77
For Plank and Timber,	181 04
Building road at Hemp-yard and paying land damages,	795 74
Paid Superintending School Committee for 1852,	34 25
Bishop & Tracy, printing Reports 1852,	9 00
Benjamin Chapman, Committee on School Districts, 1852,	6 00
Charles E. Jackson, District No. 10, stove tax, 1852,	12 00
J.W. Bradley, non-resident receipts, 1852,	4 73
Obed Powers, repairing bridge,	25 00
Geo. Jackson and others, repairing roads,	80 85

Balance of receipts brought up,	\$2946 19
Paid Abatement of taxes, 1853, on John John- son's bill,	25 55
Do. on J. W. Bradley's bill, 1852,	9 51
J. W. Bradley for notifying jurors,	3 37
W. M. Ladd, Teachers' Institute,	21 59
Moses Walker, repairing road,	150 00
Sylvester N. Bartlett, damage to family, horse, wagon, &c.,	10 00
James Tasker, repairing bridge near Mer- cer's Factory,	53 00
Lucinda Weld, for clothing,	12 00
Larnard Powers, damage to Plow, 1852,	4 00
Harrison Leslie and others, damage to Plows, 1853,	2 50
A. B. Williamson, attorney fees,	8 00
Obed Powers, building dry bridge, 1852,	20 00
Urial Comings, repairing Pound,	1 67
Same, repairing Town-House,	1 00
Same, for guide-boards,	9 00
Edmund Burke, att'y fees, Babcock case,	10 00
James S. Hunter, enrolling the Militia,	1 00
Benj. Chapman, surveying roads,	3 75
James M. Davidson, witness fees,	1 25
O. Powers, making taxes,	7 00
Town Clerk's services,	20 00
Selectmen's services,	104 34
Collector's services,	22 00
Treasurer's services,	10 00
Contingent expenses,	30 05
Amounting to the sum of	<u>\$3055 41</u>

Which leaves a balance against the town, of \$109 22

We recommend to the inhabitants of the town of Cornish to raise,
to defray town charges the ensuing year, the sum of \$800 00

The Selectmen have laid out a short piece of new road
near the house of John Luey ; to build which it will be
necessary to raise 50 00

Also, a new road from Nathaniel Johnson's to intersect with the road leading from Wm. R. Kimball's to Jacob Chase's; to build said road it will be necessary to raise 500 00

We also recommend to raise, to repair highways and bridges, the sum of 2000 00

All respectfully submitted,

HIRAM LITTLE,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
EBENEZER COLE,	
J. BARNARD WYMAN,	
	<i>of</i>
	<i>Cornish.</i>

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The amount of available funds now in the possession of the town is, \$725 35

The amount of debts now existing against the town is 114 39

Leaving a balance in favor of the town of \$610 96

The items of which the available fund consists, are as follows :

Cash on hand, \$435 35

Balance due on note against Obed Powers, including interest, secured by real estate, (Literary Fund), 290 00

Making the resources, as above stated, \$725 35

The debts against the town are as follows :

On orders drawn, \$50 00

To Superintending School Committee, 34 00

To School District No. 15, 21 31

To " " No. 11, 9 08

Amounting to \$114 39

Which leaves a balance, as above stated, \$610 96

SCHOOL FUND.

Notes in the hands of Treasurer, amounting to \$470 85

All of which is respectfully submitted, by

JOHN T. BRECK, *Treasurer.*

ALMS-HOUSE REPORT.

Received of the County Treasurer, for support of paupers at the Alms-house,	\$52 82
Due for support of Mrs. Bartlett,	39 00
Excess of Inventory above last year, consisting of provisions, stock, hay, grain, &c.	92 01
Total,	<hr/> \$183 83

For supporting this establishment, the following amount has been paid from the treasury :

Paid for Agent for 1853, and up to Feb. 28, 1854,	160 71
Which deducted from the above, leaves a balance in favor of the Alms-house of	<hr/> \$23 12

An inventory and appraisal of the personal property at the Alms-House was made on the 28th day of February, 1854, which amounts, at par cash value, to \$1419 96 ;—an increase over last year's appraisal, of \$92 01.

The produce of the Farm the past year has been as follows :—

35 pounds of Wool,	125 bush. Corn,	2½ bushels Parsnips,
5 Pigs,	45 “ Oats & Peas,	20 heads Cabbage,
4 Calves,	225 “ Potatoes,	1707 pounds Pork,
1 Lamb,	9 “ IndiaWheat,	1100 “ Beef,
14 Turkeys,	5 “ Peas,	600 “ Cheese,
50 Chickens,	3 “ Beans,	476 “ Butter,
30 tons of Hay,	1½ “ Onions,	30 bushels Apples,
75 bushels Oats,	3 “ Beets,	1½ barrels Cider,
	3 “ Carrots,	

It is thought that the Grain, Provisions, &c., are amply sufficient for the season.

There has been at the Alms-house during the past year from seven to fifteen inmates. One has died, five have left the establishment, and the present number is nine.

All respectfully submitted,

HIRAM LITTLE,	} Overseers of the Poor.
EBENEZER COLE,	
J. B. WYMAN,	

ALMS-HOUSE REPORT

REPORT
OF THE
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The town has been favored the past year with a good board of School Teachers. Their examination, in almost every instance, was well sustained. They showed that they understood the studies of the Common School, and were familiar with them. Good evidence was given of their having devoted attention to the theory of governing and teaching. It was gratifying to hear them specify the ways, by which an instructor would most successfully gain the respect, good feeling, and cheerful obedience of his scholars; and, by what method he might incite in them a deeper interest in their respective studies, awaken their thought, and quicken their mind to more vigorous action.

The branch of education which teachers are usually more deficient in their qualifications to teach, is penmanship. They evidently do not bestow as careful attention upon it and the method of teaching it as they do upon other studies of the school room. Writing is a very important part of common school education. A finished and elegant hand-writing is a desirable accomplishment. Ability to write legibly and correctly is indispensable to the successful performance of business between man and man. To prepare our children and youth for the transaction of such business is one of the great objects of the common school. Writing, therefore, is specified in the Laws of our State, as one of the studies, in which teachers shall be qualified to instruct. It is classed with arithmetic, reading, geography, &c., which shows that the framers of our School Laws regarded penmanship an important part of common school education.

It is, however, not to be wondered at, that our school teachers should be less interested in penmanship than in some other studies.

A good hand-writing is not appreciated at the present day as it should be, and as it formerly was. Besides, penmanship we apprehend does not receive that attention in our Academies by instructors of teachers' classes, that is given to other branches of common school education.

Several of our school teachers are good writers, and had they devoted their mind to writing as a science, and the method of teaching it, as they have to arithmetic and other studies, they would excel also in this department of instruction. Some of them have done it. Their scholars have made good improvement.

Most of our schools were worthy of commendation. They were highly creditable to teachers and scholars, and reputable to the district in which they were. Things were in a state of quiet and good order. Books, benches and school house were preserved with neatness and care. Scholars were attentive to books, and prompt and correct in recitation. They made good progress in their different studies. The deportment of scholars one towards another, and towards their teachers, was kind, courteous and respectful.

Several of the schools have been model schools. It would be difficult to point out in what respect they could be improved. Both teachers and scholars, and parents also, have co-operated together in delightful harmony. Teachers were mild, social and of pleasing address, yet prompt and decided in government. They sought to anticipate the difficulties under which the mind of their pupils might labor, and took evident pleasure in relieving them of those difficulties. Recitations were conducted with animation and interest.

On the other hand, scholars gave evidence of strong desire and purpose to act the part that was worthy of them. They were kind and obliging to each other; and respectful and obedient to their teachers, and studiously devoted to their books. The registers show that some scholars were not absent a day, or a half day, from the school, and others only in a few instances. Some have not whispered during the term of school, and in several schools it has seldom ever been practised. It has been gratifying to notice the interest which scholars have taken in making the school what it ought to be. The scholars of one school, which has done much credit to itself, were standing and warming themselves at the stove after the close of the school one afternoon, in which the committee was with them,

when he remarked to them, "Scholars, I presume that you are having a very good time at school this winter." "Yes sir, we are," instantly replied one and another. "I doubt not from your appearance to-day that you are trying to make the school a good one." "Yes sir, we are trying to do the best we can," was the quick response.

The parents in the districts of these schools have encouraged teachers and scholars, and cheered them on in this delightful and important work.

Prudential committees and citizens have manifested an interest in the welfare of their schools. They have done this by their personal visits to the school room,—by their kind and respectful manner in which they have spoken of the teachers before their children, and others,—by their judicious and appropriate counsel to their children and other scholars; and by their contributions to lengthen out the school.

Let parents, prudential committee and teachers and scholars co-operate together and our schools will be what they should be,—schools in which our children and youth will prepare and qualify themselves for the business of active life, when its cares and duties shall come upon them.

Our schools the past year furnish a good illustration of the fact that their welfare is closely connected with the united action of teachers, scholars and parents, and that without such action they cannot be what they otherwise would.

A few of our schools have not been what, in several particulars, we hoped they would be. In one instance, had the teacher been more perfectly acquainted with the art of teaching and government; in another, had parents and scholars more fully co-operated with the teacher; and in a third, had the prudential committee and parents, encouraged teacher and scholars by their visits to the school room, their schools would most evidently have been much modified and improved in their character.

Two teachers of the winter schools, retired from their schools before the close of the regular term. One in District No. 7 closed his school because, on account of various things, he preferred to do it. The other, in No. 2, left his school on account of illness. This place was soon supplied by another.

